Bonnehеur, A.
Pennsylvania Dutch

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Bonneheur, A de. "Pennsylvania Dutch", The Nation, LXVII (1898),482.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

Sir: While at the Moravian boarding school in Gnadenberg, in Silesia, my brother attended the University at Berlin for a winter. Then he spent two years at Heidelberg before I met him again. It was amusing to me to hear him speak German, as he had entirely changed his intonation and expression. It proved conclusively that there is a vast difference between Badenese and Prussian German, and that even foreigners are influenced by it. So it is with the German spoken in Pennsylvania, which, although now intermixed with English, can at once be recognized as originating in the Palatinate, whence the first settlers emigrated. My friend, Senator William Beidelman, who has made a study of Pennsylvania German (erroneously called "Dutch"), tells me that when listening to men and women in the streets of Heidelberg, Worms, and Speier talking to each other, he could imagine himself among his farmer friends in Northampton County or anywhere in this neighborhood. The most successful writer of Pennsylvania "Dutch" at this time is Edward Ebermann, whose "Danny Kratzer" annual Christmas letters in the Bethlehem(Pa.)BULLETIN retain the patois in its pristine purity.

Mr. Ebermann also understands how to enter thoroughly into the spirit and mode of expression natural to those of our people who keep up the Pennsylvania "Dutch". For the student of philology his letters are very interesting and amusing.

ARMIN de BONNEHEUR

Bethlehem, Pa., December 17,1898.

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